27th February 1928]

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to Board's Standing Order No. 54 which contains all orders about the resumption of religious service inams.

(b) The Hindu Religious Endowments Board has taken steps in the matter—vide paragraphs 22 and 23 of the administration report of the Board for 1925–26 which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

Excise

Extension of the privilege of licensing boards to municipalities.

*1539 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether the question of extending the privilege of licensing boards to all municipalities, irrespective of population, is under the consideration of the Government?

A.—No such question is at present engaging the attention of the Government.

Experiments in total prohibition.

*1540 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state, in reference to answer given to question No. 520 on 18th October 1927—

(a) whether the consideration of the question of total prohibition in at least two districts is complete;

(b) if so, what the conclusions are to which the Government have arrived; and

(c) the reasons for the same?

A.—(a) to (c) No decision has yet been arrived at.

Alleged prevention of depressed classes from entering public premises in arrack shops.

*1541 Q.—Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that holes of one foot by half a foot are made in the walls of arrack and toddy shops for issuing arrack and toddy to members of the depressed classes in the Nimiampatti village (Tiruppattur taluk, North Arcot district);

(b) whether there is any condition or clause in the licences granted to these vendors enabling them to prohibit members of depressed classes from entering the premises; and

(c) if the answer is in the negative, whether he will be pleased to order the removal of such restrictions by the vendors concerned and instruct departmental officers to bring to book such vendors who prevent depressed class members from entering such public premises?

A.—(a) The Government are not aware that the fact is as suggested.

(b) No.

(c) The Government are not aware of any reason why the action suggested should be taken.